

Amendments to the Claims

and

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 7 is amended.

1. (previously presented) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 7 wherein an amount of the electrolyte retained in the separator is at least 15 mg/cm^2 in a period, after assembling the battery, from a time the separator is impregnated with the electrolyte to a time the battery is activated.
2. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the separator is formed of sulfonated polypropylene, and sulfur atoms and carbon atoms in the separator satisfy a relationship of (the number of the sulfur atoms)/ (the number of the carbon atoms) = A, where $2.0 \times 10^{-3} \leq A \leq 5.5 \times 10^{-3}$.
3. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the electrolyte is poured into the case in a vacuum atmosphere.
4. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the separator has a specific surface area ranging from $0.6 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ to $0.9 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
5. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the separator has a median pore diameter of not larger than $30 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ on a volume basis when pores are measured in a range of $0.1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $360 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ with a mercury porosimeter.
6. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the separator has a weight per unit area ranging from 60 g/m^2 to 85 g/m^2 .

7. (currently amended) A nickel metal-hydride battery for use in a hybrid electric vehicle ~~and having a rating of at least 6.5 Ah~~, the battery comprising:
- a case; and
 - a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator and an electrolyte that are provided in the case;
- wherein the separator present between the positive electrode and the negative electrode is composed of a single layer, ~~[[and]]~~
- a total area $X \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ of the separator and an amount $Y \text{ (mg)}$ of the electrolyte in the case satisfy a relationship of $Y/X \geq 41$ in a period, after assembling the battery, from a time the separator is impregnated with the electrolyte to a time the battery is activated, and
 - the separator is bag-like in shape and at least one of the positive electrode and the negative electrode is inserted in the separator.
8. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 7, wherein the separator is formed of sulfonated polypropylene, and sulfur atoms and carbon atoms in the separator satisfy a relationship of (the number of the sulfur atoms)/ (the number of the carbon atoms) = A, where $2.0 \times 10^{-3} \leq A \leq 5.5 \times 10^{-3}$.
9. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 7, wherein the electrolyte is poured into the case in a vacuum atmosphere.
10. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 7, wherein the separator has a specific surface area ranging from $0.6 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ to $0.9 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
11. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 7, wherein the separator has a median pore diameter of not larger than $30 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ on a volume basis when pores are measured in a range of $0.1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $360 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ with a mercury porosimeter.

12. (original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 7, wherein the separator has a weight per unit area ranging from 60 g/m^2 to 85 g/m^2 .

13- 15. (canceled)